

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were originally pending in this application. Claims 9-14 have been allowed. Claims 1, 7, 15, 18, and 19 have been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1 - 3 and 15 - 20 remain in this application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 103

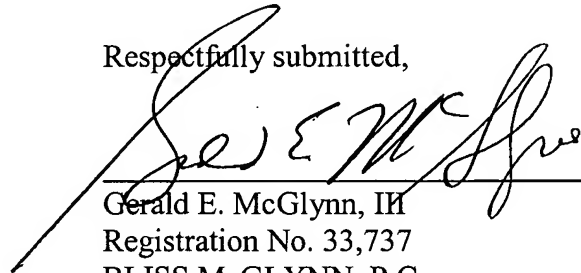
Claims 1, 5, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the published Stiller '109 application. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 7, 8, 18, and 19 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the Examiner's comments in mind, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the limitations formerly set forth in claim 4. As noted above, claim 4 has been canceled. In addition, claims 7, 18, and 19 have been amended to change their dependencies so as to ensure proper antecedent basis for all limitations set forth therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 15 each recite structure that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and are patentably distinguishable from the subject matter of the references of record in this case. Claims 2 - 3, 5 - 8, and 16 - 20 are all ultimately dependent upon independent claims 1 and 15 and add further perfecting limitations to these claims. As such, the prior art references in combination, or each reference standing alone, do not suggest the subject invention as defined in these claims. However, and even if they did, they could only be applied through hindsight after restructuring the disclosures of the prior art in view of applicants' invention. In this case, a combination of the prior art to derive applicants' invention would, in and of itself, be an invention.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made herein comply with the requirement of form expressly set forth in the previous Office Action. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be admitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 and that the rejections of the pending claims under Section 103(a) set forth in the December 1, 2004 Office Action be withdrawn. In view of the above, in addition to presently allowed claims 9 - 14, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of claims 1 - 3, 5 - 8, and 15 - 20.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. McGlynn, III", is written over a horizontal line.

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